

***California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing***

***Meeting of
June 6, 2002***

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: **PREP - 3**

COMMITTEE: **Preparation Standards Committee**

TITLE: **Report on Collaborative Pilot Technology Partnership
with Palo Alto Research Center Incorporated (PARC)**

_____ **Action**

_____ **Information**

_____ **X Report**

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: **Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification
of professional educators**

Goal 3: **Provide quality customer service**

Prepared By: _____ **Date:** 5/17/02
 Phyllis Jacobson, Ed.D.
 Consultant

Approved By: _____ **Date:** 5/17/02
 Margaret Olebe, Ph.D.
 Administrator, Professional Services Division

Approved By: _____ **Date:** 5/17/02
 Mary Vixie Sandy
 Director, Professional Services Division

Authorized By: _____ **Date:** 5/17/02
 Dr. Sam W. Swofford
 Executive Director

Report on Collaborative Pilot Technology Partnership with Palo Alto Research Center (PARC)

Professional Services Division

April 29, 2002

Executive Summary

At its meeting of September 6, 2001, the Commission approved new Standards under SB 2042 for Elementary Subject Matter Preparation Programs and for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs, and an Implementation Plan for transitioning to these new sets of Standards. At its meeting of October 4, 2001, the Commission approved new Blended Program Standards under SB 2042, and at its meeting of March 7, 2002, the Commission approved new Induction Program Standards under SB 2042. As part of the program documents review process for program applications from institutions responding to the SB 2042 standards, Commission staff have been working with experts from the Palo Alto Research Center Incorporated (PARC) in a pilot technology-based process to facilitate electronic field reading of program documents as well as web-based readers' responses to program documents submitted to the Commission. This report documents these efforts and indicates next steps in the technology-facilitated implementation process.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The base budget of the Professional Services Division has been used to date to support the overall SB 2042 program documents reading process. The technology services from PARC have been provided at no cost to the Agency as part of the collaborative technology pilot process.

Policy Issues To Be Discussed

How can the documents review process for the SB 2042 program applications be facilitated through technology?

Report on Collaborative Pilot Technology Partnership with Palo Alto Research Center Incorporated (PARC)

Professional Services Division

April 22, 2002

Background Information

At its meeting of September 6, 2001, the Commission approved the adoption of new Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Elementary Subject Matter Preparation and for Professional Teacher Preparation Programs. The Commission also approved an Implementation Plan that provides for a two-year transition, including an "early adoption" phase, for currently approved programs to rewrite and resubmit their program applications for approval under the new Teacher Preparation Standards to the Commission.

At its meeting of October 4, 2001, the Commission approved new Blended Program Standards under SB 2042, and at its meeting of March 7, 2002, the Commission approved new Induction Program Standards under SB 2042.

At the Commission meeting of April 11, 2002, staff provided an update on the implementation efforts and technical assistance being provided for programs making the transition to the SB 2042 standards. That update included a brief overview of the two major creative uses of technology to support SB 2042 implementation, including (1) the establishment of a special section on the CCTC website for items relating to the new standards and to the implementation process, so that institutions/programs could check frequently for updates; and (2) participation in piloting new web-based technology, developed by Palo Alto Research Center Incorporated (PARC), to facilitate statewide communications with and among the regional teams. Through this collaborative pilot technology partnership with PARC, staff has recently expanded the creative use of technology to include facilitation of the SB 2042 program documents review process.

The partnership with PARC came about originally through the Commission's "Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology" federal grant. Written into that grant application was a plan to participate in the "Summer Intern" program offered through a separate collaborative partnership between PARC and ACSA (Association of California School Administrators). ACSA was also one of the Commission's collaborative partners within the "Preparing Teachers to Use Technology" grant application. A Commission staff member participated during Summer, 2001, in the PARC Intern program, and, during that experience, met the PARC "Sparrow" software team. The Sparrow team was interested in working with educators to see how best the web-based interactive software they had developed might fit the needs of educators. It appeared at that time that the work the Commission was about to embark on in terms of a statewide transition to new teacher preparation program standards would be an appropriate pilot test model for the application of Sparrow technology to large-scale educational projects. An agreement was developed between PARC and the Commission to establish the collaborative pilot technology project, beginning in Fall, 2001.

The remainder of this agenda item will describe the progress made through the collaborative pilot technology project, and indicate the next steps in the process.

A. Description of the PARC "Sparrow" Software and PARC Contributions to the Pilot Technology Partnership.

"Sparrow" is essentially a web-based, group sharable and group editable software program that allows for messages and documents to be viewed, edited, modified and/or exchanged in real time among any numbers of users, independent of the particular equipment configurations and locations of the users. The software is flexible, and the Sparrow pages can be reconfigured to meet the needs of particular or specific tasks and/or users. The specific pages developed for CCTC use will be described in the section below. The Sparrow site is secure, with protected login and passwords.

The PARC team has contributed extensive time, material, equipment and labor to the successful Sparrow technology pilot with the Commission. The PARC team has been willing to accommodate, upon request of the CCTC staff, consistently-expanding uses and applications of the Sparrow software for the SB 2042 documents reading process.

B. Uses of Sparrow in the SB 2042 Implementation Process

1. Regional Technical Assistance Teams: The initial use of Sparrow was as a vehicle to facilitate the communication process among the five Regional Technical Assistance Teams. The specific Sparrow pages developed for this purpose include:

- ***To Do Lists*** for the Regional Technical Assistance Teams (to enable teams to keep track of their own team assignments in facilitating regional technical assistance meetings)
- ***Main message page*** to enable communications among CCTC staff and Regional Team staff, and to post questions and answers, as well as reference documents of general interest to team members.

Each regional team member was able to log on to the Sparrow site at any time and from any computer to access the needed information or to post a question or document.

2. SB 2042 Program Documents Reading Process: The use of Sparrow has expanded with the onset of the SB 2042 program documents review process. The software is now being used not only to facilitate general communications among CCTC staff and the entire cadre of readers, and to post documents submitted by institutions, but also to facilitate secure communications among only the members of the individual program documents review teams. For the document review process, the specific Sparrow pages (which are internally linked for user convenience) include:

- ***Main teams access page*** to enable general communications (posting messages, asking and answering questions, uploading and downloading documents of a general and/or reference nature)

- ***Forms page***, to enable downloading of individual program review forms by members of the review teams.
- ***Individual team pages***, to enable secure communications only among members of the individual teams, and to enable the shared development of the team's Summary Review Form (posted to the individual review team pages as per each team's reading assignment) that will ultimately provide feedback to the institution(s) that submitted the program(s) being reviewed by the team. Each team has three members.

Both the main page and the individual team pages are login and password protected to ensure security and confidentiality of the information and of the documents review process. The main page login and password were developed by PARC; the individual team page passwords were individually selected by the reader teams and inputted by PARC staff to the Sparrow system.

A demonstration of the Sparrow system and of several Sparrow pages will be provided at the Commission meeting by PARC Sparrow team members.

C. Next Steps

We anticipate using the Sparrow pilot software in an additional way to facilitate the reading process for subsequent SB 2042 documents submission windows. By being able to post large documents to this secure website, we can allow readers to access particular documents for review without the necessity to travel to Sacramento. This process will be particularly expedient to allow review teams to access additional information submitted subsequently by institutions to address any standard(s) identified during the review team's initial document reading to have not yet been met.

The use of the Sparrow pilot software will also be extended to the review of documents submitted in response to the SB 2042 Induction standards, beginning with the September, 2002 documents submission window. Documents review teams of three readers each will be trained on using this software during the September 16-18, 2002, documents review process.

